



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**Contact: Kena Rice**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**

1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**

444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**

500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas  
66101

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### LAWRENCE, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **George W. Warren**, 23, Lawrence, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on March 8, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil to two counts of **being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school**.

Melgren said that Warren admitted at his plea that on January 19, 2002, Lawrence Police Department officers executed a search warrant at his residence in Lawrence, Kansas, and found a handgun and a shotgun. Warren further admitted that on September 16, 2003, he was stopped by the Lawrence Police Department for a traffic violation and officers found a loaded handgun under the front passenger's seat of his vehicle. Warren admitted that he had previously been convicted of a felony in Douglas County District Court in 2001 and knew that it was unlawful for him to own or possess firearms. Warren admitted that on February 6, 2003, he was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped by the Lawrence Police Department, within 1,000 feet of East Heights Elementary School, and officers found approximately 13.08 grams (approximately .46 gram) of crack cocaine on his person. Warren further admitted that he planned to distribute the crack cocaine.

Warren faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, for being a felon in possession of a firearm and a minimum of five years and a maximum of 80 years for possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school. Sentencing is set for May 24, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lawrence Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.